

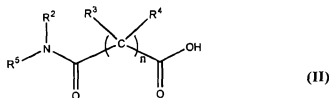
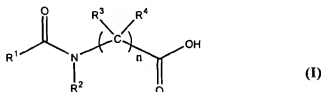
Amended Claims

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

13. (Original) A process for preparing an amido phenyl ester salt comprising reacting in a reaction vessel the following:

- (i) an antioxidant-stabilized amido acid; and
- (ii) a phenyl alcohol salt, under conditions sufficient to form an amido phenyl ester salt,

wherein the antioxidant-stabilized amido acid is of a formula I or II



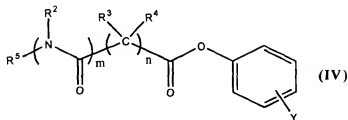
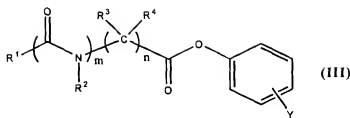
where R¹ is selected from C₁-C₂₂ alkyl, C₂-C₂₂ alkenyl, C₂-C₂₂ alkynyl, C₃-C₂₂ cycloalkyl, and C₆-C₁₄ aryl;

R² and R⁵ are each independently selected from hydrogen, C₁-C₂₂ alkyl, C₂-C₂₂ alkenyl, C₂-C₂₂ alkynyl, C₃-C₂₂ cycloalkyl, C₆-C₁₄ aryl, and where in formula II, R² and R⁵ can together with the nitrogen carrying them form a C₃-C₁₀ heterocycle;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently selected from hydrogen, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl, C₆-C₁₀ aryl and where R³ and R⁴ can together with the carbon carrying them form a C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl; and

n is an integer from 0 to 20; and

wherein the amido phenyl ester salt is of formula (III) or (IV):



where Y is selected from SO_3^-M^+ , CO_2^-M^+ , SO_4^-M^+ , and $\text{N}^+(\text{R}^6)_3\text{X}^-$;

M is selected from hydrogen, ammonium and alkali metal atom;

R^6 in each instance is a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group; and,

X is a halide, hydroxide, methylsulfate, or acetate ion.

14. (Original) The process of claim 13, wherein the antioxidant-stabilized amido acid composition is in a liquid state, or a liquid melt state.

15. (Original) The process of claim 13, wherein the amido acid composition contains an antioxidant selected from 1,3,5-trimethyl-2,4,6-tris (3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl) benzene, tetrakis(methylene (3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamate)) methane and butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT).

16. (Original) The process of claim 13, wherein the stabilizing effective amount of antioxidant ranges from about 0.001 to about 2% by weight.